

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Federal Fair Housing Act was passed in April 1968 in order to take steps toward eliminating discrimination in housing opportunities based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, family status, and disability; and to further housing choices for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, Vermont's Fair Housing Act strengthened the protections of the Federal Fair Housing Act to include age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, receipt of public assistance, and people who have experienced abuse, sexual assault, or stalking as protected classes; and

WHEREAS, the month of April is now celebrated as Fair Housing Month both nationally and locally; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing struggle for dignity and opportunity for all in housing is not the exclusive province of the federal or state governments and vigorous local efforts to combat discrimination and expand housing opportunities can be extremely effective; and

WHEREAS, Burlingtonians need safe, decent, affordable, and inclusive housing, and illegal barriers to equal opportunity in housing, no matter how subtle, diminish the rights of all; and

WHEREAS, the City of Burlington supports the efforts of fair housing organizations, concerned citizens, and the housing industry to create broader housing choice in Burlington and Chittenden County and to promote understanding of the Fair Housing Act; and

WHEREAS, inclusive, welcoming, and affordable communities promote diversity and a climate conducive to equitable and vibrant development; and

WHEREAS, Burlington submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development an Assessment of Fair Housing, which was subsequently approved by the Department in December 2017; and

WHEREAS, Burlington continues to work to expand housing opportunities and the availability and affordability of housing in Burlington through policy reform, including the development over the last two years of new policies to implement energy efficiency standards in rental housing, eliminate requirements around parking standards in order to reduce a major driver of the cost of housing and align the City's land use policies with its climate goals, and restore and increase the dedicated funding for the City's Housing Trust Fund, among others; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus crisis has put additional strain on the City's housing and support services and exacerbated existing inequities for people whom fair housing laws seek to protect from discrimination particularly for people of color;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Miro Weinberger, Mayor of the City of Burlington, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2021 to be

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

in Burlington, and I do hereby urge all individuals, agencies, and institutions – public and private – to contribute to the observance by continuing our efforts to eliminate housing discrimination in our communities and increase housing opportunities for all.



Miro Weinberger
Mayor of Burlington, Vermont